Scale of Cash Assistance (in Rs.) per institutional delivery:

Category	In Rural Area		In Urban Area	
	Cash assistance to mother	Cash assistance to ASHA	Cash assistance to Mother	Cash assistance to ASHA
In LPS	1400	600	1000	200
In HPS	700		600	

ASHA Package in rural areas includes the following three components:

- Cash assistance for referral transport for pregnant women to go to the nearest health centre for delivery and come back home.
- Balance amount to be paid to ASHA in lieu of the services rendered by her.

The Yojana has made a provision of cash assistance upto to Rs. 1500/- per delivery to Government's health institution to hire specialist for conducting caesarean section or for the management of Obstetric complications, where specialists are not in position.

In all states and UTs, all such BPL pregnant women, aged 19 years and above, preferring to deliver at home is entitled to cash assistance of Rs. 500/- per delivery, upto two live births.

The number of beneficiaries under the Scheme has increased from nearly 6 lakhs in 2005-06 to 21 lakhs in 2007-08.

Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006

*269. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 has still not come into force;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have studied likely repercussions of this Act, on small and marginal traders;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) by when the rules under this Act are likely to be framed by Government;

(f) whether it is also a fact that Government have still not decided about the administrative Ministry which would implement the provisions of this Act; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (g) The Act will come into force on such date as the Central Government may notify in the Official Gazette, after setting up of the Food Authority. A Steering Group for setting up of the Food Authority under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary.

As regards the repercussions of the Act on small and marginal traders, these aspects had been considered by a Group of Ministers (GoM) and the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture. Interests of the small and marginal food business operators have been taken into consideration while formulating the Act. Section 31(2) of the Act provides that a petty manufacturer who himself manufactures or sells any article of food or a petty retailer, hawker, itinerant vendors or a temporary stall holder or small scale or cottage or such other industries related to food business or tiny food business operator shall register themselves with such authority as being specified under regulations, without prejudice to the availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption or affecting the interests of the consumers. This enables a simplified procedure for registration of such vendors with the local authorities without having to go through a cumbersome licensing procedure.

As per provision of Section 92 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, the Food Authority is to make regulations to carry out the provisions of the Act, after Food Authority regulations to carry out the provisions of the Act, after Food Authority has been set up and the Act comes into effect.

As per the provision in Section 98, notwithstanding the repeal of the enactment and Orders specified in the Second Schedule, the standards, safety requirements and other provisions of the Act and the rules and regulations made thereunder and Orders listed in that Scheduled shall continue to be in force and operate till new standards are specified under this Act or rules and regulations made thereunder.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been entrusted with the implementation of the Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006.

Multi-speciality Veterinary Centre and Research Institute in Kerala

*270. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Animal Husbandry in Kerala has forwarded a proposal for setting up of a Multi-speciality Veterinary Centre and Research Institute in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision of the Central Government on this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government has received a proposal from the Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Animal Husbandry, Kerala for setting up of a Multi-speciality Veterinary Centre and Research Institute in Kerala. As there is no provision for granting Central assistance to fund such Projects under any of the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, the proposal was not considered.

Increasing MSP of wheat and bonus thereon

†*271. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the Minimum Support Price of wheat in the last year and amount of bonus given to the farmers per quintal;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.